

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 have been amended. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

The statement that claims 15, 16, 19, and 20 are allowable if rewritten in independent form that includes all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is gratefully acknowledged. The claims have been so rewritten. Accordingly, Applicants believe they are now in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request that they be allowed.

Claims 1, 12-14, 17-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,283,023 of Christmann et al. ("Christmann"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, as amended recites "comprising a casing; a doctor assembly including a doctor fitted to a doctor carrier; and an inking chamber for containing ink to be applied to a print cylinder, the inking chamber being formed by a concave inner surface of the casing and at least partly by the doctor assembly; the casing and the doctor assembly forming a box body closed except for one side engaging in use a print cylinder." Christmann does not disclose at least these features. Christmann discloses an ink reservoir (6) for containing ink to be applied to a printing cylinder (2) and a separate doctor blade device (3), however, the ink reservoir (6) and the doctor blade device (3) of Christmann do not form a box body closed except for one side for engaging a printing cylinder (2) as recited by claim 1. (column 1, lines 47-51, Fig. 1).

Christmann discloses an ink reservoir (6) that holds ink to be applied to the printing cylinder (2) and a doctor blade device (3). (column 1, lines 48-49). Even assuming *arguendo*, that the ink reservoir (6) and the doctor blade (3) form a box body, the resulting box body is not closed except for one side that engages the printing cylinder (2). As can be seen in Figure 1, there is a gap between the ink reservoir (6) and the blade doctor (3). Moreover, the lack of a closed box body formed by the ink reservoir (6) and the doctor blade device (3) is further evident by Christmann's disclosure of a catch reservoir (7) to collect the ink dripping from the doctor blade device (3). (column 1, lines 49-52). The ink is able to leave the ink reservoir (6) and collect in the catch

reservoir (7) because the ink reservoir (6) does not form a box body with the doctor blade device (3) that is closed except for one side that engages the print cylinder (2). Therefore, Christmann does not disclose "the casing and the doctor assembly forming a box body closed except for one side engaging in use a print cylinder," as recited in claim 1 of the pending application.

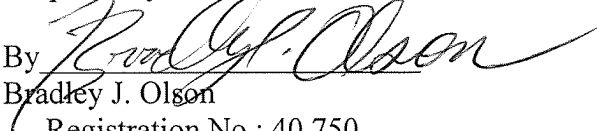
Since Christmann does not disclose all the limitations of claim 1, claim 1 is not anticipated by Christmann. Claims 12-14 and 17-18 depend from claim 1 and are patentable at least for the reasons mentioned above. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and each of pending claims be allowed.

Claims 2-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being nonpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,283,023 of Christmann et al. ("Christmann") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,945,832 of Odom et al. ("Odom"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 2-11 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Christmann for at least the reasons mentioned above. Odom, which has been cited as teaching sealing means that are radial shaped to engage the lateral surface of the print cylinder, does not disclose these limitations, and thus Odom does not cure the deficiencies of Christmann discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Bradley J. Olson

Registration No.: 40,750

David T. Beck

Registration No.: 54,985

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP

1825 Eye Street, NW

Washington, DC 20006-5403

[(202)] 420-2200

Attorneys for Applicant